

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM INDUSTRY ON THE FINAL RFP FOR THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT (WIPP)  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PROCUREMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT’S RESPONSES  
DE-SOL-0002446

No.	Final RFP Section	Industry Question/Comment	Government Response
1	Attachment L-6	Can DOE provide the MCEP forms in MSWord format?	Yes, the MCEP forms will be provided in MSWord format and posted to the acquisition website's Documents Library.
2	General	Non-Disclosure Agreement- did you request this to cover the entire solicitation assuming that whoever wins the solicitation will have access to sensitive information? Or, may we now get additional access to sensitive information which would have been unavailable without this? Thanks for clarifying the reason for the NDA.	<p>The answer to both questions is yes.</p> <p>Signed NDA forms shall be submitted from anyone in an offeror's team who will have the need to access the sensitive information for purposes of building the offeror’s proposal. The individual signing the form will be responsible for ensuring all duties and responsibilities required in the form will be followed by that individual.</p>
3	Section B and Section L attachments	Will the forms be available on MSWord format so we can complete the required data?	Yes. See answer to Question #1. Additionally, MS Word versions of Section B and the Section L attachments L-2, L-3, L-4, L-6 and L-7 will be posted under the final RFP tab on the procurement website. Section L attachment L-1 is currently posted as a PDF fillable form.
4	Standard Form 33	Is there a published form that will allow the cells to be populated?	Offerors shall use the current SF 33 posted with the final RFP for completion. Hand-written text will be acceptable if electronic or typed text on the SF 33 cannot be achieved.
5	Section I. 111 and Section I. 112	Please clarify that the wage rates identified in these sections and in the Wage Rate Determination Number 1996-0223 Revision 28 reflect the minimum rate only for those employed under this contract. Please clarify that contractors are allowed to pay prevailing wages recognizing the stringent driver qualifications required.	<p>Section I.111 identifies the classes of service employees expected to be employed under the contract and states the wages and fringe benefits payable to each if they were employed by the contracting agency subject to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 5341 or 5332.</p> <p>Section I.112 does not identify wage rates yet identifies the potential situations for adjustments to contract price, contract unit price labor rates, or fixed hourly labor rates that are subject to compliance under the Service Contract Act of 1965.</p>

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			<p>Also see Section I.39 clause FAR 52.222-41 Service Contract Act of 1965 (NOV 2007), specifically paragraph (c) <i>Compensation</i>, subparagraph (1), which identifies that the minimum wages and fringe benefits applicable to the contract are per any wage determination attached to the contract.</p> <p><i>(c) Compensation (1) Each service employee employed in the performance of this contract by the Contractor or any subcontractor shall be paid not less than the minimum monetary wages and shall be furnished fringe benefits in accordance with the wages and fringe benefits determined by the Secretary of Labor, or authorized representative, as specified in any wage determination attached to this contract.</i></p>
6	Section L.3.c.II Evaluation Factor – Relevant Company Experience <b>And</b> Section L.3.c.IV Evaluation Factor 4 - Past Performance	Section L.3.c.II requires offerors to include a <u><b>discussion of challenges</b></u> encountered in providing support and the resources utilized to meet the challenges. Section L.3.c.IV requires information on problems encountered on the contracts and corrective actions to resolve these problems. Please clarify if offerors should include another row in Attachment L-3, Experience and Past Performance Reference Information Form, which is titled "Problems Encountered and Corrective Actions," which would address both of these requirements.	See response to question no. 8.
7	Section L.8 - Proposal Delivery and Package Markings	Please confirm that proposals are due no later than 3:00 pm Eastern time, May 17, 2011. <i>The last paragraph in the section seems to indicate this but includes a "TBD."</i>	Proposals are due no later than 3:00 pm Eastern time, May 17, 2011. An amendment to the RFP will be issued to correct the “TBD” reference.

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8	<p>Section L.3.c.II. (d)</p> <p>Section L.3.c.IV.(b) and (c);</p> <p>Attachment L-3</p>	<p>Section L&amp;M, Evaluation Factors 2 and 4 establishes that Attachment L-3 shall be used to provide both the experience and past performance information requested by DOE and that Attachment L-3 is limited to 5 pages (per reference contract) to provide that information. In addition in Section L.3.c.II. (d) on page 90 of the proposal it states that relative experience shall only be provided within Attachment L-3 and that DOE will not evaluate a summary or other narrative submitted in addition to Attachment L-3. Yet the instructions for Section L.3.c.IV.(b) and (c) on page 92 ask for additional information regarding problems encountered on reference contracts, corrective actions, accidents with fatalities and/or injuries, etc that are not included in the format of Attachment L-3. Are we to simply add this information to the end of each Attachment L-3? If so, is this additional information inclusive of the 5 page limit of Attachment L-3 per reference contract? If not, what is the page limit for this additional information asked for in Evaluation Criteria L.3.c.IV.(b) and (c) and where would DOE like us to include that information?</p>	<p>Attachment L-3, Experience and Past Performance Reference Information Form, will be amended for clarification to address sections in question and the page limit for Attachment L-3 will be increased from 5 pages to 7 pages.</p> <p>Additionally, a new Attachment L-8 will be created for offerors to provide information requested at Section L.3.IV, paragraph (c).</p> <p>A corresponding RFP amendment to the solicitation will include an updated Attachment L-3 and new Attachment L-8.</p>

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9	Section B.2.1.2; Attachment L-5	<p>There appears to be inconsistencies between the requirements of Section B.2.1.2 and the Attachment L-5 spreadsheet.</p> <p>Section B.2.1.2.1 requires additional tractor services for 1-19 additional tractors. Attachment L-5 requests unit costs for 2 additional tractors for 6 months and then 11 additional tractors for 12 months.</p> <p>Section B.2.1.2.2 requires additional trailer maintenance services for 1-40 additional government trailers. Attachment L-5 requests unit costs for 2 additional trailers for 6 months and then 11 additional trailers for 12 months.</p> <p>Section B.2.1.2.3 requires additional driver services for 1-19 additional driver teams. However, Attachment L-5 requests unit costs for 2 additional driver teams for 6 months and then 11 additional driver teams for 12 months.</p> <p>Please correct the attachment L-5 worksheet to be consistent with the Sections B and C requirements or clarify the discrepancy.</p>	<p>DOE has chosen not to utilize the maximum quantities as identified in Section B.2 for the Attachment L-5 pricing spreadsheet rather DOE has chosen to use the quantities identified within the Attachment L-5 spreadsheet for evaluation purposes only.</p> <p>Note: This will not restrict DOE’s ability from ordering the maximum quantity of services after contract award.</p>
10	Section C	Do we need EPA certified tractors?	EPA certified tractors are not required; however an EPA registration number, USDOT identification number and DOT Hazmat registration number are required.
11	Section C	What is the expected replacement cycle of the tractors?	Offerors are directed to Section C.3.4 <i>Maintenance Services</i> . DOE requires that the Contractor shall maintain a one percent 1% or less monthly tractor-trailer set downtime rate.

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12	Section B And Section L	<p>For the Additional Tractors, Trailers and Driver Teams, the quantities requested in Section B are greater than in Attachment L-5. DOE previously responded to Question #9 stating that the values for the unit rates to be provided in Attachment L-5 are “for evaluation purposes only”. However, Section L.4.c Instructions direct offerors to insert the unit rates from Attachment L-5 into Section B.2. It is likely that unit rates for the quantities specified in Section B.2 would be different than unit rates specified for the quantities in Attachment L-5 (for instance providing savings through economies of scale, etc). Is it DOE’s intent to hold contractors to the same unit price independent of the quantities in either Section B.2 or Section L.5?</p>	<p>Yes, it is DOE’s intent to hold contractors to the same unit price independent of the quantities in either Section B.2 or Section L.5. Furthermore, Section L.4.c. does not instruct offerors to insert the unit rates from Attachment L.5 into Section B.2 rather Section L.4.c states if there is a discrepancy between the unit prices specified by the Offeror in Section L, Attachment L-5 and the corresponding unit prices specified by the Offeror in Section B.2, the unit prices specified by the Offeror in Section B.2 will be used to determine the total evaluated price. Regardless, the Offeror should propose the same firm fixed unit prices in both Section B.2 and Attachment L.5.</p>
13	Section C And Section M	<p>There appear to be discrepancies between the quantities of additional services specified in the PWS and what is to be evaluated in Section M. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-PWS 3.5.2.4 requires capabilities to train and qualify up to an additional 38 Drivers...</li> <li>-PWS 3.4.1.10 requires maintenance capabilities for up to 19 additional Tractors and 40 additional trailers...</li> <li>-PWS 3.3.1.11 requires capabilities to add up to 19 tractors...</li> <li>-PWS 3.2.4 requires the capabilities to provide up to 19 additional Tractors with 38 qualified Drivers and</li> </ul>	<p>The offeror will be evaluated against their capability to provide the minimum services for 11 tractor teams and the 40 Government furnished trailers AND the additional services per Section B.2 (i.e. up to 38 additional drivers, up to 19 additional tractors, and up to 40 additional Government furnished trailers) under Factor 1 – Technical and Management Approach, as applicable, for (a) Transportation Management, (b) Safety Program and (c) Tractors, Trailers, and Support Equipment Acquisition and Maintenance.</p> <p>A corresponding RFP amendment to the solicitation will be completed to include updated instructions at Section L.3 and updated Evaluation Criteria at Section M.3.</p>

SOURCE SELECTION INFORMATION – SEE FAR 2.101 AND 3.104

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		<p>associated maintenance for additional tractors and up to 40 additional trailers...</p> <p>Yet Section M, criteria M.3.I.(c) only evaluates the capability for acquiring and maintaining tractors and equipment at a minimum of 11 tractor teams at all times, including additional trailer maintenance services for up to 40 additional trailers. With respect to the additional PWS requirements above, will the offeror be evaluated against only the maintenance capabilities to provide the 40 additional trailers per the Section M criteria, or against all of the additional requirements stated in the referenced PWS sections?</p>	
14	Section H	Section H.9 (c) states the Contractor is responsible for the maintenance (including painting) of the trailers provided as GFP. Does painting mean “chipping paint and spot painting the needed area” or will the Contractor be expected to periodically paint the entire trailer which includes sand blasting the trailer.	The contractor will be required to perform preventative maintenance of the trailers (i.e. chip paint and spot paint affected areas). Any major maintenance (i.e. full refurbishment of the entire trailer) is handled by the WIPP Management and Operations (M&O) contractor.
15	Attachment L-1	I cannot find Attachment L-1: Automated Clearing House Form in the PDF format. Where is it?	Attachment L-1 is located with the Final RFP PDF document.
16	Attachment L-1	Will Attachment L-1: Automated Clearing House Form be provided in a Word version like the other attachments?	No.
17	Section B and Section L	Section L.1.D. states the print shall be no smaller than size 10, but the Pricing Schedule in Section B.2 is already pre-set at size 8. Do we enlarge Section B.2 to at least size 10 or complete this Section at the pre-set size of 8?	Complete Section B.2 at the pre-set font size of 8.

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18	Section J	Are we required to pay the Hazardous Pay Differential as shown in Attachment C-2: Wage Rate Determination 2005-2512 Revision 13? If yes, should it be at the 8% or 4% differential?	No. TRU waste cannot and does not contain any of the items listed which would require the hazardous pay differential.
19	Section L	In reference to production / assembly as requested by SN L. p.86 of the Instructions to Offerors the requirement for “three separate volumes” is specified. Please let us know if these volumes are preferred to be placed in separate notebooks or can they be assembled together in one notebook (i.e. Vol I, Vol II, Vol III (1 notebook))? Additionally if each individual volume is to be placed in a separate notebook is it preferred by DOE that the <i>copies</i> each go into a separate notebook as well or can the copies be placed with the original of the volume (i.e. Vol I Original + 1 Copy and 1 CD Rom (1 notebook), Vol II 5 copies + 2 CD-ROMs (1 notebook), Vol III 2 copies + 2 CD-ROMs (1 notebook))?	Please submit three separate volumes (notebooks) for each original and copy of the written proposal information. The original CD-ROM and CD-ROM copies can be included in the original volume for Volume I and the first copy for Volume II and III (notebooks).

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20	Section L, Attachment L-5	There appears to be an error in a missing formula on the download Excel file for “Attachment L-5 Pricing Workbook (MS Excel). In the base year and each option year 1-4 the firm fixed unit price for Basic Transportation Services does not have a formula to extend the unit price into the extended/evaluated price column (which rolls up to a grand total on the Summary sheet of file). The transition pricing, in base year only, has the same issue, i.e. no formula to extend unit price to extended/evaluated price column. Please note in the reference note column it refers to “2” which in the reference note section at the bottom of the sheet states that the amount associated with Basic Transportation Services for 11 tractors/driver teams should extend over. Should the contractor insert a formula in the spreadsheet that extends the unit firm fixed price to the extended/evaluated column?	Within the Attachment L-5 Pricing Workbook, cells E6 should equal cells B6 for the base and all option year worksheets. A formula was not inserted since there were no additional quantities associated with the Basic Transportation Services. Also, the transition pricing in cell E20 should equal to B20 on the base year pricing worksheet. Again, a formula was not included for transition since there were no additional quantities required as a multiplier.